

**There is an Enemy** (Nehemiah 4:1-9)

**Proposition:** God has armed us for the battle with the enemy. And here in the Word of God are insights into the wiles of the enemy and into the equipping of the workers that can prepare us for this enemy.

- I. Expect The Anger of the Enemy (Vs. 1-3)
  - A. Anger Expressed in Sarcasm (Vs. 1-3)
  - B. Anger Expressed in Scoffing (Vs. 1-3)
- II. Acquire the Attitude of the Involved (Vs. 4-6)
  - A. An Attitude of Prayer (Vs. 4-5)
  - B. An Attitude of Persistence (Vs. 6a-c)
  - C. An Attitude of Purpose (Vs. 6d)
- III. Expect an Attack being Evolved (Vs. 7-8)
  - A. A Plan of Surrounding (Vs. 7)
  - B. A Plan of Stopping (Vs. 7)
  - C. A Plan of Splitting (Vs. 8)
- IV. Engage Arming for the Encounter (Vs. 9)
  - A. Be Abiding In Christ (Vs. 9a)
  - B. Be Alert to the Conflict (Vs. 9b)
  - C. Be Ardent in the Cause (Vs. 9a)

There is an Enemy (Nehemiah 4:1-9)

At Scott Air Force base in Belleville Illinois, there hangs a sign that says "An untrained Soldier is just a target as we enlist in the rebuilding of the wall we need to be prepared for the encounter that is ~~happening~~ to occur. If you don't know this by now, you need to listen up and write it down, if you are going to do something for God, you can count on an attack from the enemy. The world the flesh & especially the devil are not going to sit idly by and watch you go on for God w/o putting up a fight. But God has armed us for the battle. And here in the word of God are insights into the miles of the enemy, and the equipping of the workers that can,

I. Expect the Anger of the Enemy (vs 1-3)

That word "wrath" = "to be hot furious to burn w/anger" Sanballat was fit to be tied over what was going on in Jerusalem.

A. Expressed in Sarcasm - Sanballat begins to mock the labors of Nehemiah and the people of Jerusalem. Do you really think you are going to sacrifice up those walls. You are using garbage to put up those walls. vs 3 Tobiah said, That wall is so poorly built that if a light footed fox were to jump on it it would fall down.

Sarcasm and ridicule is easy, effective and demoral

B. Expressed in Scaffing - They were attacking their ability to prevail in their labors. You don't have the know how or the ability to fortify your position, your work is so poor that a fox can knock it over. You are not even using the right materials. Satan uses the same tactics today. "You can't make a difference. You are wasting your time. You are just not cut out to serve God." EXPED

## II. Acquire the Attitude of the Involved

We can learn much from the attitude of the people of Jerusalem in verse (4-6)

A. An Attitude of Prayer (vs 4-5) again

Nehemiah is very much a book of prayer. And if we are going to accomplish what seems to be the impossible there must be a dependence on God thru prayer. "We are despised" Lord you fight our battle. Let them reap what they've sown. Let them be in captivity. God Judge them. Psalm book of comfort

B. An Attitude of Persistence vs 6a-c

So we built the wall! Don't miss the slight victory here over Sarcasm and slander. Persistence! Keep building. Let the naysayers say what they will, let the church member grumble and complain, you go on and follow God. Persist!

C. An Attitude of Purpose - vs 6d. They



- 1) ...that can prepare us for this enemy.
- 2) ...demoralizing. One author writes, it strikes at our hidden weaknesses and insecurities. Ridicule can often cause us to question our decisions and abilities. Start thinking maybe they're right. Enduring such ridicule reveals the importance of what we are doing. How do you hold up under the ridicule of the world.
- 3) Expect these false and frivolous attacks. Don't let them sideline you.

- 4) ...book of comfort, but in that book calling on God to deal justly with enemies has a very distinct place. Psalms 6:10 Let all mine enemies be ashamed and sore vexed: let them return and be ashamed suddenly. Psalms 143:12 And of thy mercy cut off mine enemies, and destroy all them that afflict my soul: for I am thy servant. Just to name a few. This kind of praying as one author wrote: will diffuse our anger and refocus us on the goal.

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 2) ...demonstrating. One author writes, it's better to be hidden  
 weakness and insecurities. Ridicule an other cause is to  
 question our decisions and abilities. Start thinking maybe their  
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 are doing. How do you hold up under the ridicule of the world.

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 you.

1) ...Lord surrounds too. Psalms 34:7 The angel of the LORD  
 encampeth round about them that fear him, and delivereth  
 them.

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 enemies be ashamed and sore vexed: let them return and be  
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2) ...he knows he can pluck you out of the hand of the Father, so  
 he wants to keep you defeated and at his mercy. That doesn't  
 have to be the case!

had a mind to work. I can tell you all the  
line long day to persist + persist + persist  
but if there is no purpose, if there is no  
goal, if there is no vision we will quit any  
time. All these years of playing basketball  
and practice on the bench, endured for the chance <sup>to play</sup>.

### III. Expect an Attack Being Evolved

Expect the enemy to escalate the opposition.  
The stakes are going to get higher. . .

A. A Plan of Surrounding - vs 7 There  
was next the threat of violence. It came  
in a time of fatigue (vs 10). These were powerful  
enemies that surrounded Jerusalem. Sabeans in North, Ammonites in East, Arabians  
in South, Ashdodites in West. We may be sur-  
rounded in our endeavors. But the Lord surrounds too.

B. A Plan of Stopping - These Jews  
were plugging up all the holes and  
avenues that kept them constantly defeat-  
ed. That kept them at the mercy of their  
enemies! Their plan was to stop that  
progress! Child of God that's the enemy's  
main goal: Stop the progress. He knows he can't

C. A Plan of Splitting - the Hebrew  
word for hinder = disturbance, con-  
fusion, perversion, or error. They were  
trying to instigate confusion division  
He wanted the construction to fall into  
chaos. This is the aged old tool of



Satan tempted and confused husbands & wives, parents

## IV. Engage in Arming for the Encounter <sup>vs 9</sup>

It is important to remember the old Boy Scout motto "Be Prepared" Nehemiah prepared for

A. Be A hiding in Christ - We made our prayer unto God! They continued their work by a dependant and an abiding relationship w/ God. What is your source of strength and protection under the threats of Satan's onslaught? God's ability, Christ's strength! In 15:4 sums it up best.

B. Be Alert to the Conflict - Yet they prayed but they also set up a watch. I heard a preacher call it putting feet on your prayers. If you don't feel safe at night pray + lock your door. If you need a job pray but seek out a job, fill out applications. He if you being discouraged, pray and seek encouragement.

C. Be Ardent in the Cause - I like the word "Nevertheless" in vs 9. Be ardently surrendered to the cause! Guard what progress you have made in your christian life. Don't surrender the ground you have taken. Peter said Satan is like a roaring lion <sup>4</sup> One reason lions roar is to mark territory.

V. Closing - I'm going to be preachin in a revival in October whas them is "there is a remedy" Listen, there is an enemy. But here is a remedy! Christ is our strength! Exam your self for the conflict in His armor Don't quit an inch.

- 1) ...husbands and wives, parents and children, pastors and leadership, church members with each other! Be aware of Satan's attack plan!
- 2) ...prepared for the the coming encounter!

3) John 15:4 Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, except it abide in the vine; no more can ye, except ye abide in me.

- 4) ...is to mark territory. Satan tries to take territory that isn't his! Stand sure be committed to the work at hand, don't give up any ground in your life and in the life of this church!